



Angel Wings Newsletter

September & October 2024

WELCOME SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER!

Welcome back to all of our returning Angel Wings Families and a very warm welcome to all of our new families joining us!

We look forward to being a part of your child's learning journey.



SCHOOL FEES

School fees are due in full by the first of each month.

Monthly fees can be paid in three ways:

- E-transfer.
- Cash.
- A series of post dated cheques.

Every child is eligible for the Alberta Affordability Grant which will be deducted from your monthly fees. You may also be eligible for Childcare Subsidy; you can look into this on: Alberta.ca under Child Care Subsidy.

HOLIDAYS, CLOSURES AND DATES TO BE RECONIZED:

September 2nd

Closed - Labor day

October 11th

Closed - Professional Development

October 14th

Closed - Thanksgiving

November 11th


Closed - Remembrance Day

November 12th

Professional Development

November 13th

Parent Teacher Conferences



“THE CHILD GIVES US A BEAUTIFUL LESSON
- THAT IN ORDER TO FORM AND MAINTAIN
OUR INTELLIGENCE, WE MUST USE OUR
HANDS.”

-MARIA MONTESSORI



TRANSITIONING CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL

We understand that with the school year beginning, that families may be facing many changes and these changes can sometimes be bitter-sweet; especially for those that have not been in a daycare/school setting before.

Our team is experienced in the process of transition and are here to help smoothen that transition for your child the best they can. We encourage you to stay positive and happy and to keep your goodbyes brief while ensuring your child you will see them later and can't wait to hear about their day. This allows the educators the opportunity to build relationships and trust with each child which will lead to the child being more comfortable.

In the early stages, we will often communicate through Brightwheel to let you know how your child is doing, if they've settled, and with picture updates. As the school year goes on, please understand that we will not update you as often as the focus is on the child, the lessons being given, or the activity at hand.



PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS.

We will be holding Parent Teacher Interviews on the following dates:

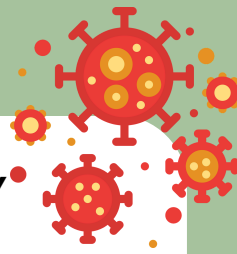
- Wednesday, November 13th 2024
- Wednesday, February 19th 2025

The centre will be **closed** for care on those dates to ensure we have the ability to see all parents uninterrupted and to answer their questions.

Our November 13th Parent Conference will be for children who started in Summer 2024 or later, known as our new students.

Our February 19th Parent Conference will be for the returning children that may be on their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year with us.

SICKNESS POLICY



If a member of the team notices that a child is presenting with any signs or symptoms of illness at time of drop off or during the day, you will be asked about them and possibly asked to pick your child up to prevent the spread of illness as per Government of Alberta recommendation. If it has been deemed by staff that your child is presenting as ill, they will be brought to a separate space away from other children and you will be contacted to collect them immediately for the well being of the children and staff members in the building. Once your child is sent home for suspected illness, they may return after a minimum of 24 hours symptom free.

We encourage all families to review the Government of Alberta's Healthy Child Care, Healthy Child Document.

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/b42cb295-97f2-4409-bf31-6105901ae8e2/resource/6ca1a9c6-2eb9-4b92-859b-36ae761f2d50/download/zz-2011-healthy-child-care-healthy-child-09-2011.pdf>

NAP AND QUIET TIME

All children are required to take a nap or quiet time period after their lunch break. Full days are very busy and it's important that children are offered time to rest and recharge. Educators are present for the nap time period, lights are dimmed, and calming music is played. For children that don't nap or only require a brief nap, we have our backyard space if the weather is suitable or we have our music room space where the children can come and partake in some quiet time activities.



PICK UP AND DROP OFF ROUTINES

Our Montessori program begins promptly at 9:00AM until around 11:30AM and again at 2:45PM until about 4:30PM. The children are fully engaged in their work cycles by 9:00AM after our circle time and we want to ensure that the child's lessons aren't being interrupted so we ask that all children are dropped off by 9:00AM latest to get the most of their day with us. We understand that things come up like appointments and need to be accommodated. Please let us know in advance if possible of any upcoming appointments you may have for your child that will result in an early pick up or late drop off. Communicating these dates with the educators will allow for smoother transitions for the children and we can either have the child ready for pick up or have them smoothly transition into their work cycle when they arrive at drop off. Our late drop off time is 11:30am or 2:30pm; early pick up is also 11:30am and 2:30pm.

Friendly reminder that our earliest drop off time is 6:30AM and our latest pick up time is 5:45PM. Due to licensing, we can not have children on premises which is Angel Wings outside of those operating hours.



DIAPERS, PULLS UPS, & POTTY TRAINING

If your child is in diapers or pull-ups, please bring a pack of them, as well as wipes, and diaper cream if you have filled out a diaper cream form provided in registration package. If your child is in a pull-up, we ask that you send your child with the ones that fasten at the sides with Velcro as they help the child gain a sense of independence in being able to do it themselves. It also assists the staff member caring for your child. These items will be kept in a drawer that is labeled with your child's name in the changing station area. You will be notified via Brightwheel or verbally at pick up if we are in need of more supplies for your child.



SPEECH & LANGUAGE SCREENINGS

We have partnered with Bragg Creek Education Services Association, Early Childhood Intervention Services, located in Bragg Creek and servicing surrounding areas. All screening and work with BCESA is funded through Alberta Education and helps to identify and overcome any challenges your child may be experiencing. For more information, please check out their website!

<https://www.braggcreekeducationervices.com/>

COMMUNICATION

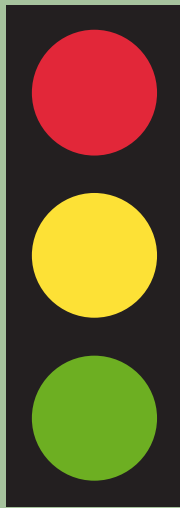
We like to maintain open communication with our families here at Angel Wings and we have found the best way to do so is with the app, Brightwheel. Brightwheel allows us to do things like, send direct messages with parents, share photos, videos and activities, incident and accident reports, health updates, and more.

While we try our best to share these things on a regular basis, we do prefer to spend our time engaging with the children instead of use of phones as they can be rather distracting to the children. As this is the case, please be aware we might not get to share with you everyday.



RESPECTFULNESS IN AND AROUND THE BUILDING

At Angel Wings Daycare and Montessori Preschool we strive to create and role model for the children a positive and respectful environment and attitude. We expect parents to do the same in and around the property with staff, children, and other families. We do not tolerate any kind of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse.



PARKING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPECTFULNESS

For pick up and drop offs, please role model good driving manners and follow the road rules and procedures. We ask the you don't do U turns in the area as there is a lot of children crossing to get to school or their bus stops.

MUSIC CLASS WITH MRS. KARA

We have recently welcomed Mrs. Kara to the team! Mrs. Kara is joining us with a certification in music and voice from Red Deer College, as well she has successfully completed her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta. We are very excited to welcome Kara to the team and know that she will make a wonderful asset to Angel Wings and our music program.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

If you would like us to celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom, we do ask that you notify us ahead of time by email or Brightwheel and we would be happy to assist in organizing it. If you choose to have us celebrate your child's birthday in the class, we ask that you provide a picture from each year of your child's life to be able to show the class and use in our special Montessori Birthday celebration. This helps us to tell your child's story and allows fellow classmates to have a look at how much their peer has grown and to discuss what those stages might have looked like. In addition, if you wish to bring a birthday snack, the team must be notified in advance and the snack must align with our policies. We are a nut free centre and ask that snacks come individually wrapped to align with the Alberta Licensing Requirements. If bringing snacks for a birthday, please steer away from sugary sweet treats as they tend to affect the children's energy levels. Things like fruit cups, "Made Good Bars", cheese strings, etc., make for perfect individual snacks for the children to enjoy.



CLOTHING, SHOES, & BACKPACKS

Please bring 3-4 sets of spare, seasonally appropriate clothes for your child including, socks, underwear, pants, shorts, shirts, etc. These items will go into the belongings bag provided by Angel Wings and be placed on your child's hook for their use.

Please encourage your child to be an independent dresser and be sure to send your child in appropriate clothing that they can play, sit, and run in comfortably.

If your child is potty training or is new to being independent in the washroom, please dress your child in pants or shorts that can be easily pulled up and down like elasticated waist bands in case the child is in a hurry to get to the washroom.

Please pack your child a pair of indoor shoes that your child can put on and take off easily with little assistance to support their independence. Velcro runners are ideal for indoor and outdoor shoes for all ages. Please label your child's shoes and all other belongings so there is no mix up with children having similar belongings. We ask that you supply a weather appropriate jacket as we like to get outside as often as possible and the weather in Alberta can change very quickly so we want to be prepared.

Please be mindful when choosing a backpack for your child that it isn't too big for them to carry or too small to fit their belongings in.





SNACKS, LUNCHESES, WATER BOTTLES, & UTENSILS



We are a NUT FREE centre. Please ensure that your child's snacks and lunches do not contain any kind of nuts including tree nuts (hazelnuts, peanuts, cashews, almonds, macadamia, pecans, walnuts, etc.)

We ask that healthy snacks and lunches are packed, such as fruits, vegetables, yoghurts, soups, leftovers, cheese, crackers, etc. We do our best to role model healthy food choices to the children.

Licensing does ask that we encourage families to avoid packing things like whole hotdogs, popcorn, whole grapes and blueberries, etc. as these things tend to be choking hazards for small children.

If your child's lunch needs to be heated, please pack it in a microwavable container without items that aren't to be heated. Please pack clearly labeled utensils and a water bottle for your child everyday. We ask that all containers are labeled including what is AM snack, PM snack, and lunch to prevent any mix up.

If your child has items that need to be refrigerated we ask that you please only put those items or containers into the fridge to utilize the fridge space the best we can. Lunch bags can be left in the child's backpack.

SEPTEMBER



Welcome back to all of our returning families and a very warm welcome to all the new families joining us at Angel Wings Daycare and Montessori Preschool. We would like to use September to focus on getting all the children settled and comfortable in their classrooms and with the daily routines as well, we would like to take this time to let the children and staff get to know one another. One of the best ways to get to know the children and families in our care is by doing, "All About Me" activities. Throughout the month of September, we will be creating a few different activities and sending them home for children and families to do together so we can discuss and learn more about your child individually! This allows children to talk about their individual interests and share meaningful and personal connections to their own worlds outside of school with their classmates and new friends. Through these activities we can learn about your child's families, pets, our communities, our dislikes and likes, hobbies, favourite sports, favorite foods, and so much more! If your child has clothes or artifacts that expresses an identity which is usually associated with a different geographical area that your family has connections with, please do allow your child to bring these items to school, as they play a significant part in the child's identity and self-esteem. Also, if you have photos of your child participating in sporting events, culture events, family events, or community events, please do bring them in so that your child can share these wonderful memories with their peers and teachers. This is a great building block for your child's identity and forms a positive sense of self.

Along with forming a positive sense of self in children, we also work hard to build children's sense of peace; it helps build children's positive thinking and feelings. In September the children will learn about the Day of Peace which is held on September 21st. Peace Day provides the children with a powerful opportunity to engage with children and educators around them in diverse activities that are related to peace, unity, and making a positive difference in their world around them. Creating meaningful involvement for children can help set a tone of respect and belonging right from the beginning of our school year. Dr. Maria Montessori herself was nominated for the Noble Peace Prize three times in her lifetime and following that, we strive for peaceful and respectful engagement in our centre.

OCTOBER



Let's fall into October with a month full of fall and spooky learning fun for the children. During the month of October, we will be discussing the things that we're thankful for leading up to Thanksgiving holiday celebrations which we will be closed for on Monday October 14th. Talking about the things that we're thankful for, helps children in being able to feel and express gratitude themselves. Together as a group we will be going over all the ingredients needed to make a homemade Thanksgiving soup. Each child will be sent home with an ingredient and an amount that they need to gather and bring in to add to our Thanksgiving soup.

In the spirit of Halloween, we will be holding a pumpkin parade where the children get to bring a decorated pumpkin in from home to share with their peers. We will also be taking part in fun Halloween games, sing along songs and dances, and offering activities that align with the theme and program. We ask that children do not come dressed in costumes during the Halloween festivities and that no tricks or treats are sent in your child's lunch and or snack. During the month of October, we have lots of fun things planned so we ask that costumes aren't sent as they can distract children from their learning, children become upset when their costumes get wet, dirty, or spilled on, loss of accessories, and costumes can take away from a child's independence when it comes to toileting. We ask that candies and treats stay at home to enjoy with your family as we would like to keep children fueled up for their learning and day ahead with healthy snacks and lunches. On and around our Halloween festivities, children are allowed to wear shirts with pumpkins or Halloween like pictures on them, and children are also allowed to dress in orange and black if they choose to. If there is any tradition or Halloween activity that you like to do with your family and would like to share with us, please do!